

Office of Legislative Counsel

Request
OLC #18 0423/1

8 March 1978

Note for File:

Per telephone conversation this date with Charles Mitchell in Senator Allen's office, a written response is not necessary.

25X1



Washington, D.C. 20505

Honorable James B. Allen, Chairman
Subcommittee on Separation of Powers
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of January 30, 1978, conveying your request for information on possible Soviet uses of space for military purposes. I am sorry that it has taken us so long to compile answers to your requests, but, as my staff has previously explained to your own, the questions you asked relate to a complicated and specialized area and a considerable amount of effort was needed to respond completely to your questions.

The research has now been completed and several documents are ready for your personal review. Since these documents contain very sensitive information which is highly classified and compartmented, I will appreciate your forbearance in allowing me to provide the documents through the mechanisms of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence which has instituted appropriate procedures for maintaining the physical security of the documents. The documents will be delivered to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence offices at G-308 Dirksen Senate Office Building where you can peruse them at your convenience after which they will be retrieved.

With specific regard to your question about our updating the information we provided you on 22 July 1977 on Soviet efforts to modify atmospheric or weather conditions on a macrocosmic basis, the only additional information we have is classified and is included in the package of materials that we have prepared for you.

I hope this procedure will not inconvenience you, I am sure that you will understand that my statutory obligations to protect such sensitive material require special handling.

Yours sincerely,

STANSFIELD TURNER

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United States Senate

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Executive Registry

78-4424
rec'd 2 Feb.

CAC #78-0423

January 30, 1978

Hon. Stansfield Turner
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Adm. Turner:

I am deeply concerned that the Soviet Union may be conducting space missions designed for military applications beyond mere intelligence gathering. Specifically, I am struck by the possible military potential of the technology and techniques developed by the Soviets in conducting the Soyuz 25 through 27 missions. Additionally, as you know, on January 24, 1978, the Cosmos 954 mission terminated when that satellite crashed into the Great Slave Lake region of the North West Territories in Canada. Newspaper accounts report that the satellite carried 100 to 110 pounds of enriched Uranium 235 for use as a component in the nuclear powered, intelligence-gathering equipment on the satellite. Finally, the Soviet Union has done extensive work in developing a fractional orbital bombardment system which would permit attack of the United States from virtually any point on the compass with little or no warning.

In view of this apparent development of military weapons systems for use in outer space, I request that the Library of Congress prepare for my use a full report on all Soviet space missions of military potential together with an analysis of the present and future capability of the Soviet Union to wage war in outer space. Particularly, the report should discuss in detail the need for 100 pounds of enriched Uranium 235 to power a nuclear reactor installed in a satellite and should discuss the possibility that the nuclear fuel involved was a component part of a weapons system rather than an atomic reactor. Also the report should discuss the military applications of high energy particle beam research in connection with Soviet satellite missions. The present capabilities of the Soviet Union to destroy American communications and intelligence satellites should also be covered in as much detail as is possible.

Incidentally, I would also appreciate receiving any unclassified information you may have updating the report you previously prepared for my use concerning Soviet efforts to modify atmospheric or weather conditions on a macrocosmic basis.

I consider the work I am asking to be done to be of paramount importance, particularly inasmuch as the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks could well lead to the submission of a new Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty to the Senate in this session of the Congress.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,


James B. Alier

JBA/qmc

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	D/DCI/IC				
4	DDS&T				
5	DDI				
6	DDA				
7	DDO				
8	D/DCI/NI				
9	GC				
10	LC	X			
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/Pers				
14	D/S				
15	DTR				
16	A/DCI/PA				
17	AO/DCI				
18	C/IPS				
19	DCI/SS				
20	D/NFAC		X		
21					
22					
SUSPENSE		9 Feb 78 Date			

Remarks:

Please prepare interim response and advise target date for conveyance of report.

Executive Secretary

2 Feb 78

Date

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